

## Animal Emergency Response (AER) Positions Recommended Credentials

### Introduction

Credentials are the baseline criteria representing the *minimum* requirement for Animal Emergency Responders (AER) personnel to participate in the Incident Management Systems Division/National Integration Center's National Emergency Responder Credentialing System. Multiple responders are assimilated into resources (teams, units, etc.). Resources are typed.

The metrics used in *Designing a National Emergency Responder Credentialing System* are defined as follows:

<b>Education</b>	Formal instruction based upon a curriculum that prepares an individual with the core knowledge and skill for entry into a discipline and for performing a job title
<b>Training<sup>1</sup></b>	Instruction and/or activities that enhance and individual's core knowledge; increase skill set and proficiency; and strengthen and augment abilities.
<b>Experience</b>	Time required functioning in a job title for an individual to attain proficiency in applying knowledge, skills, and abilities.
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Physical and medical considerations that, when applied, help to ensure safe performance in risky environments <sup>2</sup> .
<b>Certification</b>	Designation granted by Authority Having Jurisdiction <sup>3</sup> that an individual has met the requirements and achieved specific knowledge, skills, and abilities.
<b>Licensing</b>	Legal designation granted by Authority Having Jurisdiction, indicating that a person has met the necessary legal requirements to function in a job title.

<sup>1</sup> All Federal, State, Tribal, and Local entities, Private Sector and Nongovernmental personnel with a direct role in emergency management and response must be NIMS and ICS trained. This includes all emergency services related disciplines such as EMS, hospitals, public health, fire service, law enforcement, public works/utilities, skilled support personnel, and other emergency management response, support and volunteer personnel, as follows:

#### *Entry Level*

FEMA IS-700: NIMS, An Introduction

ICS-100: Introduction to ICS

#### *First Line, Single Resource, Field Supervisors*

IS-700, ICS-100 and ICS-200: Entry Level ICS or its equivalent

#### *Mid-level Management: Strike Team Leaders, Division Supervisors, EOC Staff, etc.*

IS-700, IS-800.A NRP, ICS-100, ICS-200 and ICS-300\*

#### *Command and General Staff; Area, Emergency and EOC Managers*

IS-700, IS-800.A, ICS-100, ICS-200, ICS-300\* and ICS-400\*

\* NOTE: Not all persons required to take ICS-300 and ICS-400 will need to take IS-800.A. Emergency managers or personnel whose primary responsibility is emergency management must complete this training.

<sup>2</sup> It is recommended that all Animal Emergency Responders who work with animals that can transmit rabies ensure that they are current with their rabies vaccination.

<sup>3</sup> The Authority Having Jurisdiction for AER in most cases is the Chief Veterinary Official. This implies that the State Director for Emergency Management recognizes the State Veterinarian as the official person for responding to animal issues in emergencies resulting from all hazards. Although credentialing, as defined here, is for State level responses, this system also serves as a model for local and federal jurisdictions.

### **Prerequisites**

Prerequisites identify qualifications, experience and/or expertise required to perform the tasks related to a certain position. In most cases, prerequisites for AER's restrict the AER to only work with certain species. The species groups are:

- Companion animals (such as dogs, cats and household pets);
- Equines;
- Livestock (such as cattle, sheep, goats, pigs)
- Avian;
- Zoo, non-domestic and exotic species (grouped together as "Non-domesticated")

### **Position Titles**

The following Position Titles provide a template for AER personnel to respond to all hazards, including Animal Health Emergencies and Natural and Technological Disasters according to the Incident Management Systems Division/National Integration Center's National Emergency Responder Credentialing System. The positions are:

AER Job Title 1.	Livestock Agriculture Economist
AER Job Title 2.	Animal Case Manager
AER Job Title 3.	Animal Control Specialist
AER Job Title 4.	Animal Handling Specialist
AER Job Title 5.	Animal Industry Specialist
AER Job Title 6.	Animal Shelter Manager
AER Job Title 7.	Animal Technician
AER Job Title 8.	Permit Specialist
AER Job Title 9.	Risk Assessment Specialist
AER Job Title 10.	Animal Facilities Site Manager
AER Job Title 11.	Species Specialist
AER Job Title 12.	Vector Control Specialist
AER Job Title 13.	Veterinary Epidemiologist
AER Job Title 14.	Veterinary Specialist

## Livestock Agriculture Economist

**Job Title:** Agriculture Economist

**Description:** Advises on economic impact of livestock disease control measures upon the economy

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Formal training in agriculture economics
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to livestock agricultural economics
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Not specified

## Animal Case Manager

**Job Title:** Animal Case Manager

**Description:** Assists in reuniting animal and owner  
Ensures owner and animal are compatible

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to the day to day care and needs of animals Has functional skills to assess an appropriate match between owners and animals
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species

## Animal Control Specialist

**Job Title:** Animal Control Specialist

**Description:**

- Captures and evacuates (extricates) animals
- Restrains dangerous animals
- Safely and humanely handles animals
- Advises on euthanasia of dangerous animals
- Assesses needs of animals
- Counts animal populations
- Identifies and counts facilities
- Coordinates animal operations at impacted site
- Advises on species management

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, 200; IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills in animal capture, rescue and evacuation
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Certified animal control officer (domesticated animals); Wildlife Officer (wildlife)
<b>Licensing</b>	Optional, may be restricted by species and may be required by State
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species

## Animal Handling Specialist

**Job Title:** Animal Handling Specialist

**Description:** Safely and humanely handles animals  
 Counts animal populations  
 Ensures appropriate sanitation for animals  
 Feeds and waters animals  
 Exercises animals  
 Identifies and counts facilities  
 Provides water to animals

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified	
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level:	ICS 100, IS 700
	First Responder:	ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to safe and humane handling of relevant species Has functional skills applicable to basic husbandry of relevant species	
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress	
<b>Certification</b>	Entry Level:	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
	First Responder:	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified	
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species	

## Animal Industry Specialist

**Job Title:** Animal Industry Specialist

**Description:** Advises on specific priorities for animal industry

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to relevant animal industry
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species

## Animal Shelter Manager

**Job Title:** Animal Shelter Manager

**Description:** Manages temporary animal shelter

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to the day to day care of animals Has functional skills applicable to animal shelter management
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Has proven organizational and management skills



## Animal Technician

**Job Title:** Animal Technician

**Description:**

- Assists with animal health care
- Assists with animal depopulation
- Assesses needs of animals
- Collects specimens from animals
- Counts animal populations
- Ensures appropriate sanitation for animals
- Establishes and maintains medical records
- Feeds and waters animals
- Exercises animals
- Identifies and counts facilities
- Provides water to animals
- Safely and humanely handles animals

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified	
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level: ICS 100, IS 700 First Responder: ICS 100, 200, IS 700	
<b>Experience</b>	Recent experience preparing medical records Has functional skills applicable to management of relevant animal populations Has functional skills applicable to working in animal facilities Has functional skills applicable to safe and humane handling of relevant species Has functional skills applicable to basic husbandry of relevant species	
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress	
<b>Certification</b>	Entry Level:	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
	First Responder:	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified	
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species Some activities will be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian	

## Permit Specialist

**Job Title:** Permit Specialist

**Description:** Issues Permit for movements of animals, goods, commodities and services

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level: ICS 100, IS 700 First Responder: ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to data entry and relevant software
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Not specified

## Risk Assessment Specialist

**Job Title:** Risk Assessment Specialist

**Description:** Assesses geographic distribution of disease for the purpose of maintaining trade and commerce

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Formal training in risk assessment
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to assessing risk of disease transmission
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Not specified

## Animal Facilities Site Manager

**Job Title:** Site Manager

**Description:** Coordinates response operations on animal facilities  
Coordinates animal response operations at impacted site

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified
<b>Training</b>	ICS 100, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Recent field experience in disasters preferred
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species

## Species Specialist

**Job Title:** Species Specialist

**Description:** Advises on the hands on management of individual animals and animal populations.

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Not specified	
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level:	ICS 100, IS 700
	First Responder:	ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to the specific needs of relevant species	
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress	
<b>Certification</b>	Entry Level:	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
	First Responder:	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Entry Level:	Not specified
	First Responder:	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species	

## Vector Control Specialist

**Job Title:** Vector Control Specialist

**Description:** Advises on vector control

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Formal training in vector specie
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level: ICS 100, IS 700 First Responder: ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to pest management and/or vector control applications
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Entry Level: Works in related field (government, academia, private sector) First Responder: Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified, but may require federal or State Environmental Protection Agency license
<b>Prerequisite</b>	May be limited to working with specific vector species

## Veterinary Epidemiologist

**Job Title:** Veterinary Epidemiologist

**Description:**

- Identifies animal, agent and environmental risk factors for disease transmission (planning section)
- Identifies animal, agent and environmental risk factors for disease transmission (field)
- Identifies animal, agent and environmental risk factors that could adversely affect animals (planning section)
- Identifies animal, agent and environmental risk factors that could adversely affect animals (field)

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Advanced degree in Epidemiology
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level: ICS 100, IS 700 First Responder: ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Has functional skills applicable to investigations of health events Has functional skills applicable to investigations of health events in planning Has functional skills applicable to investigations of health events in the field
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress
<b>Certification</b>	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
<b>Licensing</b>	Not specified
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Not specified

## Veterinary Specialist

**Job Title:** Veterinary Specialist

**Description:**

- Performs clinical examinations and makes diagnoses
- Identifies presence of disease and abnormal conditions
- Recommends risk reduction for disease transmission
- Monitors the re-emergence of disease
- Provides urgent healthcare to animals
- Performs euthanasia
- Oversees vaccination of animals
- Advises on disease control and prevention

### Credentials

<b>Education</b>	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent degree	
<b>Training</b>	Entry Level:	ICS 100, IS 700
	First Responder:	ICS 100, 200, IS 700
<b>Experience</b>	Works or has worked in primary animal health care	
<b>Physical/ Medical Fitness</b>	Able to perform under conditions of moderate stress	
<b>Certification</b>	Entry Level:	Works in related field (government, academia, private sector)
	First Responder:	Certified for this position by Chief Veterinary Official
<b>Licensing</b>	Eligible to practice veterinary medicine	
<b>Prerequisite</b>	Limited to working with companion animals, equines, livestock, avian or non-domesticated species	